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From the American Monthly for March.  
AN ACCOUNT OF THE MISSISSIPPI  
SCHEME OF JOHN LAW.

It is often curious to observe how fre-  
quently mankind are found acting over  
the same scenes. Turn back into the  
page of History, and you will discover  
whole periods of popular excitement and  
delusion, which seem to be the exact pro-  
totypes of what is going on in your own  
times. Whether it be that the passions  
and propensities of men are so much alike  
in all ages and countries, that they will  
always, from a kind of necessity, under  
similar circumstances, be found doing  
precisely the same things, in spite of the  
warnings of history; or whether it be  
that there is a kind of precession in hu-  
man affairs, and only a limited number  
of changes through which human actions  
can be rung, it is not easy to determine.

JOHN LAW, the author of the most  
splendid and daring speculation that the  
world ever saw, was the son of William  
Law, a goldsmith and banker of Eden-  
burgh; and was born in that city on the  
31st of April, 1671. In early childhood  
he addicted himself to the study of mathe-  
matics; and as he advanced into youth,  
gave great attention to the subjects of fi-  
nance and political economy. While he  
was still very young, he was employed  
by the government of Scotland to man-  
age the public accounts of the kingdom,  
which were in the greatest confusion,  
and to settle public revenues and dis-  
bursements upon some permanent sys-  
tem of finance; a task which he perform-  
ed with great ability. His father died  
in 1685, leaving him a respectable for-  
tune, but one by no means equal to his  
habits of life, or his love of great opera-  
tions. He immediately went to London,  
the great theatre of enterprise and ad-  
venture, to push his fortunes in the world.  
His fine figure, his many accomplish-  
ments, his fondness for deep play, and,  
above all, a most extraordinary talent  
for calculating chances and winning wa-  
gers, soon made him extremely popular  
and notorious in the fashionable world.  
But he had not been long in London be-  
fore he killed a gentleman in a duel, which  
grew out of an affair of gallantry, and  
was obliged to leave the kingdom. He  
passed over to the Continent, and there  
spent his time in studying his favorite  
subjects of trade and finance, and in prac-  
tising his talent for gaming and betting.  
In 1700 he returned to Scotland, and in  
December of that year published at Ed-  
inburgh a work called "Proposals and  
Reasons for constituting a Council of  
Trade." This book, the object of which  
was to diffuse more accurate and liberal  
notions on the subjects of trade and com-  
merce than were then prevalent, was  
sound in its reasonings and proposals.  
But it did not excite any great attention,  
and was not noticed by the government.  
In the year 1705, he submitted a propo-  
sition to Parliament for the establishment  
of a paper currency, as a machine with  
which to manage and pay the public debt;  
and his scheme went so far as to propose  
issues of paper to the extent of the value  
of the whole landed property of the coun-  
try. It was rejected by the influence of  
the landed interest. Disappointed at not  
being able to make any thing succeed at  
home, he went again upon the Continent,  
and for five or six years rambled up and  
down Europe, leading the life of a game-  
ster and financial projector. During this  
period he arrived at Turin, the capital  
of the Duke of Savoy, and submitted to  
the reigning Duke a project for manag-  
ing his revenues, and carrying on the  
trades of his dominions, by a great joint  
stock company. The Duke was for a  
while amused with the project, but saw  
through its fallacy. "Your scheme is a  
plausible one," said he, "but when you  
have put all the money of my subjects  
into the coffers of your company, I should  
be glad to know what they are to pay  
their taxes with?" As this was an inquir-  
y to which there was no answer to be  
made, the projector made his bow, and  
retired from the Court of Turin.

During his rambles up and down Eu-  
rope, Law had acquired, by play and by  
his ingenuity in betting, a fortune of more  
than £100,000; and with it he went and  
established himself at Paris in 1714. The  
finances and public credit of France had  
fallen into most disastrous confusion dur-  
ing the long reign of Louis XIV., who  
was just then dying; and Law discovered  
in this state of things an excellent  
opportunity to make his peculiar talents  
useful to the new government which  
should come into power on the death of  
the old king. Louis XIV. died, and was  
succeeded by his grand-son, then a mere  
child. The Duke of Orleans became  
Regent; a man of exactly the character  
to rely on the services, and to be capti-  
vated by the projects of an able and bold  
projector like Law. By Law's advice,  
certain improvements were introduced  
into the public finances; and while these  
were going on, he and his brother Wil-  
liam Law set up a Bank, with a branch

# MAUMEE EXPRESS.

Volume I.

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Number 4.

in London and a branch in Paris, which  
they called "The General Bank of Law  
& Co." This was so prosperous, and  
seemed to be managed with so much  
ability, that the Government determined  
to take it into its own hands, with Law  
for its manager, as a machine with which  
to carry on the fiscal concerns of the  
country. It was accordingly incorpo-  
rated, on the 4th December, 1718, under  
the title of "The Royal Bank." Upon  
this institution as a nucleus, Law estab-  
lished and developed his great scheme,  
which in history passes under the name  
of "The Mississippi System."

The Mississippi was so called, because  
the company of which Law was the head,  
had received a grant of large tracts of  
land at the mouth of the Mississippi river,  
and one of the ostensible (perhaps real)  
objects of the Company was the coloni-  
zation of that territory. But this was only  
a small part of the great scheme. It  
undertook the collection of all the reve-  
nues of the country; it absorbed the  
East India and all the other great trad-  
ing companies; it was to carry on all  
the trade of the South Seas; besides em-  
barking to an enormous extent in stock  
and banking operations, and taking charge  
of the coinage. Thus it swept in all the  
commerce, all the financial concerns, and  
as dependent on these, all the indus-  
try of the kingdom. Its promises of  
profits were so magnificent and allur-  
ing, that men hastened to sell their mov-  
ables, their houses and lands and every  
thing else that could be turned into mo-  
ney, for the purpose of buying shares in  
this vast concern. Where all the mo-  
ney, that was thus raised, finally went,  
may very naturally be inquired. Great  
quantities were carried away by stran-  
gers who came to speculate in the stock;  
immense sums were wasted in fruitless  
trading expeditions; much was embez-  
zled by the sub-agents and managers of  
the company; and what did not disap-  
pear in this way, was used by the Gov-  
ernment for its own purposes.

The effect of all this upon society was  
to introduce the greatest disorder and  
confusion. All France was seized with  
rage for speculating in the funds. Regu-  
lar industry was abandoned for this  
great scheme of national gambling. Its  
influence reached not only the rich and  
moneyed men, but penetrated into all  
classes of society. The shares were con-  
stantly rising under the influence of the  
extraordinary and magnificent promises  
held out by the managers; so that a share  
purchased by a man without property  
to-day could be sold to-morrow at an  
advance, which would leave him in pos-  
session of a fortune as suddenly acquired  
as if it had fallen from the clouds.

"Every thing at Paris assumed a smil-  
ing countenance. Money grew so com-  
mon, that people did not know where to  
put it out at 3 per cent.; the tradesmen  
had a greater vent for their goods; the  
workmen were better paid for their work;  
the value of the land about Paris rose to  
fifty, and even sixty years purchase;  
many noblemen repaired their broken  
fortunes, and others grew very rich by  
the great advantages they made in deal-  
ing in the actions (Stock) of this new  
company. Numbers of people never  
known in the world, and who sprang  
from nothing, were all of a sudden seen  
riding in their coaches, only by striking  
into this new trade, by which in a very  
few years they had gained vast sums."

These are the words of old Malachi  
Postlewaite, Esq. author of the Dic-  
tionary of Commerce, who looked on  
from across the channel, and took great  
satisfaction in his dry sarcasms upon the  
confused and factious prosperity of the  
Parisians at that time: "All the world  
ran to Paris. The prodigious sums that  
strangers laid out in the stock, and the  
numbers that resorted to negotiate there,  
filled that city with money and people,  
and consequently with trade: and they  
told us there was nothing to be seen but  
new coaches, new equipages, new live-  
ries, and buying new furniture; in a  
word, there were no less than twelve  
hundred new coaches set up, and half a  
million of people more than there were  
before; so that no lodgings were to be  
had, and they built new houses & streets  
in every place where they had room."

The cause of the extraordinary rise of  
the stock, and the means by which the  
managers of the scheme were enabled to  
keep up the public confidence, deserve  
to be traced.

It had long been believed, on the  
doubtful relations of travellers, that the  
country in the neighborhood of the Mis-  
sissippi contained inexhaustible treas-  
ures. The old notion, too, about the  
El dorado was not yet wholly exploded.  
Law availed himself of this popular  
idea. It was whispered about, as a  
great secret, that the famous mines of St.  
Barbe had been discovered in the terri-  
tory granted to the Company; and by  
way of giving a color to this pretence,  
a great show was made of sending out  
a company of miners to dig for gold.—  
Every one was, consequently, eager to  
obtain shares in a Company that was go-  
ing to reap such an unbounded harvest

of wealth. "The adventurers," says the  
Abbe Rynal, "were not satisfied with a  
bare association with the Company which  
had obtained the possession of that fine  
country. The proprietors were applied  
to from all quarters for large tracts of  
lands for plantations, which, it was re-  
presented, would yield, in a few years,  
a hundred times the sum necessary to be  
laid out upon them. The richest and  
most intelligent men in the nation were  
the most forward in making these pur-  
chases; and such as could not afford to  
become purchasers, solicited the man-  
agement of plantations, or even to be  
employed in cultivating them. During  
this general infatuation, all persons who  
offered themselves, whether Frenchmen  
or foreigners, were promiscuously crowd-  
ed into ships, and landed on the burn-  
ing sands of the Biloxi, a district in  
West Florida, between Pensacola and the  
mouth of the Mississippi, where a  
French settlement had been inconsid-  
erately formed, and where these unhappy  
men perished in thousands, of want and  
vexation, the miserable victims of a po-  
litical imposture and of their own blind  
avidity."

But these were not the only vaunted  
sources of expected returns. The Com-  
pany had loaned to the government 1-  
200,000,000, and had taken as a pledge,  
to secure and pay this debt, all the reve-  
nues of the country, amounting, on paper,  
to the sum of 106,000,000 per annum.  
But the currency, with which these op-  
erations were performed, and which had  
flooded the country, consisted of the  
Company's bank paper, which they had  
issued to the amount of one thousand  
millions. This currency was bottomed  
on a great deal less specie even than the  
banking of the present day; and by an  
arret of the 21st December, 1719, the  
bank paper was ordered to be taken at  
5 per cent. above the value of the cur-  
rent coins which it professed to repre-  
sent.

In the midst of this general infatua-  
tion, Law himself became the idol of  
popular favor. Honors were showered  
upon him from all quarters. The learned  
societies contended with each other  
for the distinction of enrolling his name  
among their members; and the govern-  
ment, in order that it might avail itself  
of his services, and that he might avail  
himself of the official station, made him  
comptroller-general of the finances, or,  
in other words, prime minister of the  
kingdom. How coolly and adroitly he  
carried on his great hoax, is evident from  
the following remarks of Postlewaite,  
in which, after enumerating the various  
extraordinary sights and wonders to  
which the times had given birth, he says:  
"Seventhly and lastly.—We have seen  
a private gentleman raise himself, by the  
dexterity of his management, to be the  
greatest subject in the world; to have  
all the princes, the nobility, the public  
ministers, and even the government it-  
self, at his beck, and above three hun-  
dred coaches of a morning at his levee;  
himself behaving with all the modesty  
imaginable; not elevated by his good  
fortune, nor discomposed by the applica-  
tion to so much business, but calm and  
serene, and always present to himself  
answering briefly and pertinently to ev-  
ery new discourse, despatching every  
body's business with a readiness inimita-  
ble, and every day producing new won-  
ders in the great affair of the public  
which was upon his hands."

Thus armed with the whole financial  
power of the country, there seemed to  
be no bounds to the operations of the  
Company of which Law was the head.  
The whole thing became a fancy stock,  
and all thought or calculation of returns  
or dividends was swallowed up in the  
enormous speculation upon the shares  
themselves. The original proprietors  
were in haste to make all the money they  
could, and to convert their shares into  
gold; and the few other bankers who  
had kept aloof from the speculation,  
foreseeing that a great crisis was ap-  
proaching, hastened to collect all the  
specie they could lay their hands upon,  
and began to drain the Company's cof-  
fers by all the means within their reach.  
At this period the shares had reached  
the enormous price of 10,000 livres, at  
which price their aggregate nominal  
value exceeded by more than eighty  
times the amount of all the specie in the  
country. In this state of things, the gov-  
ernment, which had wilfully and wicked-  
ly lent its aid to the delusion of its infat-  
uated subjects, saw that ruin was the  
only remedy, and that this mighty fabric  
must be prostrated in the dust upon the  
heads of the crowd below. The first  
blow came from a royal edict of the  
21st May, 1720, ordering the value of  
shares to be reduced to 5,000. The one-  
half of the property of each stockhold-  
er was annihilated. The notes of the  
bank were ordered to a similar reduc-  
tion in value. This was national bank-  
ruptcy; and the tide of public feeling  
poised but for a moment at its height,  
ebb with a rapidity and power more fear-  
ful than its flow. Popular favor instan-  
tly turned to popular rage; and amidst

the bankruptcy of thousands and the ex-  
ecrations of the kingdom, the great pro-  
jector retired from the country. The  
public distress was so great, and the  
public creditors so numerous, that gov-  
ernment was under the necessity of af-  
fording them relief. This duty it was  
also under a moral obligation to dis-  
charge, inasmuch as its deluded subjects  
had been led into the snare partly for the  
government's own purposes. Above  
four hundred thousand sufferers, chiefly  
fathers of families, presented their whole  
fortunes in paper; and the state, after  
liquidating these debts, which amounted  
to a sum too incredible to be named,  
charged itself with the enormous debt  
of sixteen hundred and thirty-one mil-  
lions of livres, to be paid in specie.

Law, himself, passed over to England,  
and took a great house in London, where  
he lived splendidly for a while, receiving  
crowds of people, who came to visit the  
man who had shaken by his bold schemes  
the social foundations, of a whole king-  
dom. Although his property in France  
had been confiscated, yet his official sal-  
ary was continued to him by his patron  
the Regent until the death of that prince  
on the 2d December, 1723. With him  
perished all Law's hopes of regaining his  
private fortune. He became embarrass-  
ed; suits were commenced against him  
by his creditors, both in France and  
England, and he was threatened with  
imprisonment. In 1725 he went again  
upon the Continent, and fixed his resi-  
dence at Venice. There, in obscurity  
and comparative poverty, the great ad-  
venturer, who had controlled the whole  
wealth of France, and had involved in  
his schemes the whole credit of the civil-  
ized world, died on the 21st of March,  
1759. The following bitter and taunt-  
ing epithet appeared soon after in the  
French journals:

"Here lies the Scotch projector,  
Unequaled calculator,  
Who, by the algebraic rule,  
Hath made old France to play the fool."

NEWSPAPER READERS.—How endless  
is the variety of newspaper readers; and  
how hard it is to satisfy their wants.  
Mr. A believes he shall discontinue his  
paper, because it contains no political  
news.—and B is decidedly of opinion that  
the same sheet dabbles too freely in the  
political movements of the day. C doesn't  
take it because it is all on one side—  
and D, whose opinion it generally ex-  
presses, does not like it because it is not  
severe enough upon the Administration.  
E thinks it does not pay due attention to  
fashionable literature.—and F cannot  
bear the flimsy notions of idle writers.  
G will not suffer a paper to lie upon his  
table, which ventures an opinion in fa-  
vor of slavery.—and H never patronizes  
one that lacks moral courage to expose  
the evils of the day. I declares he does  
not want a paper filled with the hodge-  
podge proceedings of Congress and the  
Legislature.—and J considers that paper  
the best which gives the greatest quanti-  
ty of such proceedings. K patronizes  
papers for the light and lively reading  
which they contain.—and L wonders that  
the press does not publish Dewey's ser-  
mons, and such other "solid matter." M  
will not even read a paper that does not  
expose the evils of sectarianism.—and N  
is decidedly of the opinion that the pulpit,  
and not the press should meddle with reli-  
gious dogmas. O likes to read police re-  
ports.—and P, whose appetite is less  
morbid, would not have the paper in  
which these silly reports are printed in  
his house. Q likes anecdotes.—and R  
won't take a paper that publishes them.  
S says that murders and dreadful acci-  
dents ought not to be put in the papers.—  
and T complains that his miserable pa-  
per gave no account of that highway ro-  
bbery last week. U says the type is too  
small.—and V thinks it too large. W  
stops his paper because it contains noth-  
ing but advertisements.—and all that X  
wants of it is to see what is for sale. Y  
will not take the paper unless it is left at  
his store before sunrise.—and Z declares  
he will not pay for it if left so early that  
it is stolen from his domicile before he is  
up. And last of all, come the complaints  
of some of the ladies, who declare the  
paper is uninteresting, because it does  
not contain a list of marriages—just as if  
it were possible for the printers to marry  
people, whether the parties will or not.

THE DEATH WALTZ.—At a ball late-  
ly given at Port Louis, near Loirent,  
while a young lady was waltzing, she felt  
the hand by which she was supported  
become stone cold, and on looking into  
the face of her partner, found his features  
deadly pale and horribly contracted. She  
fainted at the sight, and fell to the ground  
whilst her cavalier dropped by her side.  
The lady was taken up and recovered,  
but the life of the gentleman was extinct.  
She maintains that he was dead several  
seconds before she knew it, and that she  
made one turn round the room with him  
after he was a corpse. He was a mar-  
ried man with several children, and his  
wife was at the ball.—French paper.

## OCEAN STEAM NAVIGATION.

An article in the London Nautical  
Magazine for March, furnishes the fol-  
lowing notice of preparations which are  
making in England, in reference to the  
establishment of regular steam packet  
communication between that country  
and the United States. The boats, it  
will be seen, are to be of extraordinary  
large dimensions, with machinery of  
corresponding power.

There are two vessels at present build-  
ing to run direct from Bristol and Lon-  
don to New York. The great Western  
Ship Company's vessel is building at  
Bristol, and is of the following dimen-  
sions and power:

Length between perpendiculars 216 ft.  
Beam 35  
Depth in hold 22

The engines are 400 horse power,  
having cylinders 73 inches diameter, and  
7 feet stroke.

This noble vessel is expected to be  
ready in the course of the approaching  
summer, and will most probably make  
her first voyage in August next. She is  
intended to carry twenty-five day's fuel  
—a quantity quite sufficient to ensure the  
regular performance of the voyage in  
all weathers.

The British and American Steam  
Navigation Company, whose head quar-  
ters are in London, have contracted with  
Messrs. Curling, Young & Co., of Lime-  
house, for a vessel of 1,395 tons, build-  
ers' measurement, and of the following  
dimensions and power:

Length between perpendiculars, 235 ft.  
Beam 40  
Depth 27

To have engines of 460 horse power,  
having cylinders 76 inches in diameter,  
and seven feet stroke. The engines are  
fitted to work either with or without  
Hall's condenser, at the option of the  
engineer. This magnificent vessel, the  
largest steam vessel ever yet propelled,  
will have capacity for twenty-five days  
fuel, 800 tons of measurement goods, and  
500 passengers.

We sincerely wish both the British  
vessel and the London one all manner of  
success; and when we reflect on the im-  
mense intercourse between this country,  
the United States and Canada—sixty  
thousand people having landed at New  
York from the 1st January to 1st of  
September, and 27,000 in Quebec last  
year—the increase that will naturally  
take place when the passage is shortened  
to 15 days, instead of 30, the present  
outward average passage of the New  
York packet ships, we do not think that  
any, out of the numerous plans before  
the public, hold out stronger inducements  
to the capitalist than such undertakings.

It is difficult to calculate the national  
benefit that will accrue to both countries  
by the establishment of steam com-  
munications between them—the one with  
an overflowing population, the other with  
inexhaustible reserves of fertile lands—  
the one the greatest manufacturing, the  
other the most extensive producing coun-  
try in the world—both talking the same  
language, and allied by blood, religion,  
and feeling, with one another. Thus  
much we may affirm, that it will greatly  
improve both countries, and render per-  
petual the peace that now so happily ex-  
ists between them.

## ZOOLOGICAL ARRIVAL FROM AFRICA.

Return of the Expedition.—Among the  
Animals are two Giraffes.

The ship Tigress, (appropriate name,)  
Capt. Hammond, arrived at Boston,  
March 31st, from Cape Town, (Cape of  
Good Hope,) bringing the most splendid  
collection of natural curiosities ever ex-  
hibited in this country. On the suc-  
ceeding day they were generously ex-  
hibited by the proprietors, gratis, to the  
citizens of Boston, at No. 93 Union-st.  
The animals, according to the Boston  
Times, were taken by an expedition sent  
out three years since by Messrs. Mac-  
omber, Welch & Co. They were ab-  
sent so long that at the Cape they were  
given up for lost—only two, however, of  
the expedition had died. They penetra-  
ted beyond Caffraria, and 800 leagues  
further north into the interior of Africa  
than any European or American traveller  
is ever known to have done before.

It was thought by the expedition at one  
time that they saw the mountains of the  
Moon and the sources of the Nile.—  
They represent the interior country as  
very thinly inhabited by a race differing  
from the negro, Hottentot or Caffre, and  
gentle, except when excited. Occasion-  
al deserts but much heavy timber was  
found—wild game of every description;  
also abundance of wild animals, which  
sometimes are dangerous. A huge African  
lion was caught thus: He suddenly leaped  
from a cusp completely over three  
of the mules, and landed among the net-  
tings, which the company were carry-  
ing with them to entrap smaller animals.  
His roar was tremendous, and his ex-  
ertions to disentangle himself frightful;  
but one of the men, with great presence  
of mind, threw over him an additional  
quantity of nettings, and he was finally  
secured. He is now very docile, and

measures nineteen and a half feet from  
his nose to the tip of his tail. His like  
was probably never before exhibited in  
any civilized country.

The greatest curiosities are two large  
Giraffes, one of the most remarkable  
quadrupeds of the animal kingdom, the  
most difficult to preserve alive, and  
the most sought after by all the Euro-  
pean potentates to adorn their zoolo-  
gical collections. Ten thousand pounds  
were offered for them at the Cape to  
send to Europe. This superb animal,  
commonly called the camelopard, has  
a fawn-like neck and head, towering  
some 30 feet in the air, and with fore legs  
so long and hind one so short, that he  
seems to stand in a perpendicular atti-  
tude. He is covered with a soft short  
fur of fawn color, with regular white  
spots, and his eye is large and of beau-  
tiful hazel color. He divides the hoof,  
chews the cud, and feeds on the leaf of a  
tree of the mimosa genus, called by the  
natives *kamep*, by the planters *kamel-  
doorn*. The one at Paris had several  
crumple horn'd cows, of the Egyptian  
breed, brought with him to furnish milk.  
But we abstain from extending this no-  
tice of the Giraffe farther for the pre-  
sent, as we hope soon to see in person  
these first specimens ever brought to  
America—having been hitherto too costly  
and too difficult to preserve for our mar-  
ket, and procured with only immense  
difficulty to pamper the luxury of courts.  
There are also brought out several black  
ostriches, a huge condor, a new species  
of baboon, several beautiful gazelles,  
two splendid African leopards, a large  
hyena, and numerous minor animals.—  
What a pity it is that some naturalist or  
historian did not accompany the expedi-  
tion! What a flood of new light could  
he have poured upon a subject which so  
deeply interests the world—a *terra in-  
cognita* to which so many learned soci-  
eties of Europe have directed their re-  
searches, and in attempting to explore  
which so many gallant lives have per-  
ished. But it was left for Yankee enter-  
prise, stimulated by the omnipotent im-  
pulse of gain, to have accomplished, had  
they so desired, more than all the Mun-  
go Parks, Buces, Clappertons, Denhams,  
Laings and Landers have ever done.—  
We still cherish the hope that some in-  
telligent person connected with the ex-  
pedition will publish a diary, and a plain,  
unvarnished detail of facts, every one of  
which, being entirely new, will possess a  
charm, however minute the narrative.—  
N. Y. Star.

THE JEWS AND INDIANS.—M. M. No-  
ah, of N. Y., delivered last week, a lec-  
ture before the Mercantile Library As-  
sociation of that city, the subject of which  
was the evidence of the American In-  
dians, being the descendants of the lost tribes  
of Israel. How far he succeeded in con-  
vincing his auditors of the proposition he  
attempted to prove, was not told—but  
his lecture is spoken of as eloquent and  
ingenious. A fact has since been stated  
by the New London Gazette, on the au-  
thority of a letter from Fort Gibson, Ar-  
kansas, which, if true, may furnish the lec-  
turer with a rare argument. The writ-  
er says: "It has been supposed that the  
Indians are of Jewish origin, which ap-  
pears somewhat confirmed by their late  
emigration; nine men have gone before  
the emigrants ever since they left the old  
nation; and one of them has carried some-  
thing like the Ark of the Covenant, or  
the tables which Moses brought from the  
Mount. White men are not allowed to  
see them, but an old negro says, that  
they have two brass plates, about 18 by  
6, with letters engraved on them, probably  
commandments. The person carrying  
them has not been known to speak to any  
one upon the road; and in his manners  
he has been as solemn as the grave. It is  
said, that the plates are cleaned once a  
year by a person who attends to no other  
business. I shall endeavor to obtain  
further information on this highly inter-  
esting subject.—Boston Transcript.

Of the 7296 years which are supposed  
to have elapsed since the creation, we  
shall find 3000 of ignorance and dark-  
ness; 3000 either fabulous or doubtful;  
1000 of ancient history, commencing  
with Persian empire, and there public  
of Rome and Greece; 1000 from the fall  
of the Roman Empire in the West to the  
discovery of America; and the remain-  
ing 296 will almost complete three cen-  
turies of the modern state of Europe and  
mankind.

It is estimated by the Barings, the Lon-  
don bankers, that the amount of British  
capital invested—not for speculation but  
for income—in the public works, banks,  
State credits, and institutions, of the Uni-  
ted States, now exceeds £200,000,000  
sterling, or nearly 90,000,000 of dollars.  
In their circular it is stated that they ob-  
serve a growing disposition to increase  
their investments in this country, and we  
are gratified to learn that the American  
securities are deemed equal to those  
which any country in Europe can afford.

AWFUL.—The editor of the Exeter  
News Letter, having been imposed on  
by a fictitious marriage notice, revenges  
himself upon the unhappy wretch who  
brought it to his office, by publishing this  
description of his person: "A long-  
shanked, red-faced, snub-nosed, blue-  
eyed, ill-looking, worse-mannered, and  
unprincipled scoundrel."